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WEALDSTONE put five past relegated Stortford Ground rules keep Stones' promotion dreams alive

By Ron Walker

A 5-0 thrashing of already relegated Bishop's Stortford raised what has often been a gloomy mood around Wealdstone's Grosvenor Vale on Easter Monday, while news the club could still have a chance of reaching the play-offs may yet improve it further.

On the back of a 1-1 draw at Hampton and Richmond on Saturday, with Ciaran Brown on the scoresheet, Wealdstone were rampant in dispatching long-suffering Stortford back on home soil.

Eddie Oshodi put them in front within 46 seconds and Dan Fitchett continued his bright start in blue and white with a second five minutes later.

It was three shortly before the hour mark when Wright grabbed a goal of his own.

And in the dying moments Danny Green added a goal-of-the-season contender with a stunning 30 yard volley, before Elliot Benyon scored his first league goal since returning from injury in added time.

Both Hungerford and Poole, sitting fifth and sixth respectively,

have been ruled out of play-off contention on ground regulations, say the Football League Paper.

That means seventh place should be enough for a spot - and the Stones currently trail Hampton, who occupy that position, by a point with two games remaining.

"Had we won at Hampton it would've put us in pole position," said manager Gordon Bartlett. "That's what we've got to strive for."

"I can't pretend we haven't been thinking about it. Despite the feeling of disappointment from the season, we've been in the last 16 of the trophy, fourth qualifying of the FA Cup, we've got two cup finals to come and we might get in the play-offs. It's not been that bad."

"We've not done as well as we could do but you don't just throw money at something and then it all falls into place."

On Saturday, Wealdstone take on Hungerford at the Vale, and could jump into seventh with victory.

On the visitors' potential lack of motivation, Bartlett said: "From a personal point of view if you'd got to 6th you'd be bitterly disappointed if the club hadn't done its work to take you up."



Ciaran Brown celebrates his first Wealdstone goal at Hampton on Saturday. Picture: ALAN PALMER

Boro safety will go to the wire

HARROW LOSE 2-0 TO LOCAL RIVALS HENDON WITH SURVIVAL NOT SECURE

TWO defeats over the Easter weekend have left Harrow Borough, without victory in nine games, needing a win to secure their Ryman Premier League status on the final day of the season next week.

The Borough's latest defeat, a 2-0 derby defeat to neighbours Hendon at Earsfield on Monday, leaves them two points clear of the drop with one game to play - but given their wretched run of form since mid-March, survival is far from guaranteed.

Goals in either half worsened their woes going into a final-day showdown at Lowestoft this weekend.

Despite starting well, Borough fell behind 26 minutes in when Matthew Ball's one-two ended with the Hendon striker firing a deflected shot beyond Brendan Hazlett.

Harrow carved out chances to level but, true to form, conceded another within minutes of the restart from the lively Khale Da Costa.

That took the stuffing out of their charge and Hendon ran out comfortable winners, to themselves move out of the bottom four, behind their hosts only on goal difference.

Harrow had put up more of a fight against Needham Market on Saturday, with Joshua Webb's goal not quite enough to earn anything from a 2-1 defeat in Ipswich.

On Saturday they will face an all-or-nothing clash with Lowestoft, who themselves have only one win in six.

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The Harrow Times is published by Newsquest (London) Ltd, Observer House, Caxton Court, Caxton Way, Watford, Herts WD18 8RJ part of the Newsquest Media Group Ltd, Loudwater Mill, Station Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP10 9TY, a Gannett Company. Printed by Newsquest Oxfordshire, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ.

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